Strategy to increase yield of major foodgrain crops

3537. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) strategy adopted by Government to increase yield of major foodgrain crops;

(b) how far the strategy has been successful in increasing the yield;

(c) whether the strategy has been able to remove regional imbalances in the yield of foodcrops; and

(d) if so the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) During the IX Five Year Plan regionally differentiated strategy based on different agroclimatic conditions has been adopted in order to remove regional imbalances in the level of production and productivity of various crops. The salient features of strategies are as follows:

(a) Promoting cropping system approach of increasing the production and productivity of cereals crops as a whole against the individual crop approach. Encouragement will be given to follow green manuring and use of compost and other organic sources;

(b) Encouraging varietal replacement and propagation of newer location specific High Yielding Varieties with biotic and abiotic resistance;

(c) Improving the resource base of the farmers and encouraging devices for efficient water management for timely and effective field operations;

(d) Popularisation of improved crop production technologies through organisation of field demonstration as farmer's holdings and training of farmers and farm labourers including women;

(e) Encouraging the integrated nutrient management for sustainable agricultural production;

(f) Greater emphasis on the adoption of Integrated Pest Management Approach to control the pests and diseases and also use of weedicides to control the weed menace to crops;

(g) More emphasis on the proper adoption of non-monetary inputs like timely sowing, maintaining optimum plant population, efficient use of fertiliser and need based plant protection measures; and

(h) Extension education efforts will be strengthened to make farmers more receptive to new technology.

Consequently, there has been a considerable increase and improvement in the production and productivity of major foodgrain crops as indicated below:

Crops	1997-98		1998-99	
	Production (Million tonnes)	Productivity (kg/ha.)	Production (Million tonnes)	Productivity (kg/ha.)
Rice	82.54	1900	86.00	1928
Wheat	66.35	2485	70.78	2583
Coarse Cerelas	30.40	986	31.46	1065
Pulses	12.97	567	14.80	622
Total Foodgrain	192.26	1552	203.04	1620

Assessment of Flood and Natural Calamity situation in Assam

3538. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the floods and natural calamities situation in the country particularly in the State of Assam during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the full details regarding Assam which is badly affected as a result of floods areas, if necessary; and

(c) the details of financial assistance/grants provided by Government so far in this regard to the State of Assam ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Preliminary assessment of natural calamities including floods, is made by the State Governments. The Central Team also visits the affected.

(b) A statement showing the damage caused by floods in Assam during 1998-99 is annexed. (*See* below)

(c) The State of Assam was released Rs. 41.60 crore as Central share from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) during 1998-99. In addition, Rs. 59.90 crore were released to the State from National Fund of Calamity Relief (NFCR).